

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07792 01 OF 02 010717Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /092 W
-----122151 010800Z /17
R 010703Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7568

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 7792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS; MARR, JA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA

FOLLOWING REPEATED COMUSJAPAN DTG 280816 Z APR 78
TO SECSTATE FOR INFO.
R R 280816Z APR 78

FM COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
TO RUHQHQ/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INFO RUEHKY/AMEMB TOKYO JA
RUAGAAA/CINCUNC SEOUL KR

C O N F I D E N T I A L

PERSONAL FOR ADM WEISNER, INFO DCM SHERMAN
GEN VESSEY, FROM LT GEN LOVING. DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS.
SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA (U)
REF: COMUSJAPAN MSG DTG 180150Z APR 78

1. (C) REFERENCED MESSAGE PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON MEETING
WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE COMUSJAPAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER
ON 27 APRIL. AT SUGGESTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER, THE
MEETING TOOK THE FORM OF A WORKING BREAKFAST AT
THE IIKURA HOUSE. OTHER ATTENDEES WERE: MR. KEISUKE
ARITA, VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MR. TOSHIJIRO
NAKAJIMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU;
.4. MINORU TAMBA, DIRECTOR SECURITY DIVISION, AMERICAN
AFFAIRS BUREAU; MR. YOSHIASU SATO, DIRECTOR, NORTHEAST
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ASIAN BUREAU; MAJ GEN LYNN, CHIEF OF STAFF HQ USFJ;
AND CDR JOHN HAMMACK, EXERCISE BRANCH OF J3 DIV, HQ USFJ.
2. MY BRIEFING ON TEAM SPIRIT 1978 COVERED THE PURPOSE,
SCOPE, DURATION, PHASES, PARTICIPATING FORCES (AUGMENTING
FORCES WERE HIGHLIGHTED) AND MAJOR EVENTS. DRAWING
ON THE ASSESSMENT PROVIDED BY GEN VESSY, I NOTED THAT
TEAM SPIRIT 1978 WAS ONE OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE EXERCISES

CONDUCTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THAT IT PROVIDE
VALUABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES
AND ROK PARTICIPANTS IN THREE MAJOR AREAS:

- A. JOINT/COMBINED PLANNING,
- B. DEPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT OF AUGMENTING FORCES
FROM WESTERN PACIFIC AND CONUS BASES, AND
- C. JOINT/COMBINED OPERATIONS.

ALSO, TEAM SPIRIT 1978 PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO
DEMONSTRATE THE UNITED STATES' CONSTANT READINESS
AND WILLINGNESS TO RAPIDLY DEPLOY FORCES TO ASSIST
IN THE DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

3. (C) THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ATTENTIVE DURING MY BRIEFING
AND ASKED SEVERAL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AT THE CONCLUSION.
HE STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED THAT THE EXERCISE WAS A
POLITICAL SUCCESS AND "DEMONSTRATED US CAPABILITY TO ASIAN
COUNTRIES WHO FEEL THREATENED." HE INDICATED THAT HE
WOULD MAKE THIS POINT DURING THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT
MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT
SENIOR US MILITARY LEADERS IN JAPAN AND KOREA HAVE
THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED US POLICIES.
HOWEVER, US "WORLD STRATEGY" WAS NOT DISCERNIBLE AND
THAT HE WOULD RAISE THIS POINT DURING THE WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE.

4. (C) IN ADDITION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 7792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS; MARR, JA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA

FOLLOWING REPEATED COMUSJAPAN DTG 280816 Z APR 78
TO SECSTATE FOR INFO.

A. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MEET WITH COMUSJAPAN EVERY THREE MONTHS TO DISCUSS SECURITY TOPICS.

B. HE NOTED THAT THE MOFA WAS A DEFENDER OF US-GOJ SECURITY AGREEMENTS, AND WELCOMED A FREE EXCHANGE OF FRANK IDEAS CONCERNING ANY US PROBLEMS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOFA AND MANY JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENTS ARE OLD AND IN SOME INSTANCES CAUSE DIFFICULTY FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS AND THERE IS A NEED TO REVISE SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS AND PROCEDURES. HE SAID WE "SHOULD NOT LET BASE ISSUES PREJUDICE OUR PRESENT GOOD RELATIONSHIPS," BUT SHOULD BRING JOINT AGREEMENTS INTO ALIGNMENT WITH CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED.

AND US FORCES MUST BE HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME BECAUSE OF THE "REDUCED" DOD BUDGET AND THE CHANGE IN THE VALUE OF YEN. HE WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS TO THAT MOFA MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOLVING
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THEM. HE INDICATED THAT PRESSURE ON THE GOJ WITH RESPECT TO THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE BUT THAT INSTEAD THE GOJ SHOULD BE LEFT TO DEVELOP ITS OWN SOLUTIONS.

D. REFERRING TO CRITICISM WITHIN THE DIET CONCERNING THE MOVEMENT OF US FORCES BY AIR THROUGH JAPAN IN SUPPORT OF TEAM SPIRIT, AND IN PARTICULAR AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING THE LANCE UNIT, HE STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE DIET THAT IT WAS LIKE HAVING "A FIRE EXTINGUISHER DRAGGED THROUGH THE GARDEN (REFERRING TO JAPAN AS THE GARDEN AND THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER AS THE OBJECTIONAL THROUGH-PUT) TO PUT OUT A FIRE. DON'T BLAME THE FIRE BRIGADE FOR THE FIRE. MAYBE WE SHOULD THANK THEM (THE U.S.)". HE STATED THIS RESPONSE RESULTED IN NO FURTHER DIET CRITICISM.

5. (C) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS, I EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH WHAT HE HAD SAID AND NOTED THAT WE WITH RESPECT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENTS WE AGREED THAT CHANGES MUST BE MADE AND THAT HOPEFULLY WE WERE ATTUNED TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE IN THIS REGARD. I NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT WE WERE HARD AT WORK IN TWO AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN: AIRSPACE AND AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION, AND STOOD READY TO APPLY OUR ATTENTION IN OTHER AREAS REQUIRING REVISION. I FURTHER NOTED THAT WE WERE APPRECIATIVE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH HIM AND THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND LOOKED FORWARD TO FUTURE MEETINGS AS MEANS OF

ESTABLISHING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP.

6. (C) PER AGREEMENT WITH DCM SHERMAN, EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING. IN MY
VERBAL DEBRIEF TO THE DCM, I SUGGESTED THAT AN
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AMEMB REP ATTEND FUTURE COMUSJ-FONMIN MEETINGS.

7. (U) WARM REGARDS. GDS-84

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Message Attributes

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